

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mechanism is disclosed for implementing a sparse file system for an operating system partition. In one implementation, a non-global partition is created within a global operating system environment. A file system is then established for the non-global partition. This file system may comprise one or more virtual directories, which reference other directories. Referencing other directories in this manner makes it is possible to avoid having to copy all of the files used by processes running in the non-global partition into the file system. As a result, storage and other system resources can be saved.